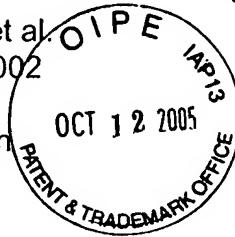


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/049,162 Confirmation No.: 7831
Applicant : HIRASHIMA et al.
Filed: February 8, 2002
TC/A.U. : 3728
Examiner : LUONG, Shian

Docket No. : 7388/72600
Customer No. : 42798



Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

October 12, 2005

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In conjunction with the Request for Continued Examination submitted herewith, and in response to the Office Action of May 12, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

- (1) Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

- (2) Remarks/arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.